

Military Working Dogs (MWD) (K-9)

1. Commanders may request support from Military Working Dog (MWD) Team for Health and Welfare Inspections to detect the presence of narcotics and explosives. Two weeks' notice is preferable, but inspections can be conducted on short notice if exigent circumstances exist. The best time to conduct these inspections is just before PT when most soldiers are out of the barracks, and before PT road closures.



2. Before the dogs arrive at your unit:

a. You must acknowledge the dog's capabilities of detecting past and present odor (which may cause the dog to respond even though the substance is no longer present).

b. You must be satisfied with the dog's capabilities as a fully qualified and reliable Narcotic Detector Dog.

c. You must understand the dog's response, which may provide sufficient probable cause to pursue a detailed search of a given area within your command.

d. You must meet with the dog team(s) at Bldg 2-2701, 30 minutes prior to inspection time to receive a demonstration and briefing on the MWDs abilities, IAW AR 190-12 and DA Pam 190-12.

3. During the inspection:

a. Ensure no soldiers are in the areas to be inspected. The dogs are trained to be aggressive. Sudden movement may result in personal injury.

b. An NCO will be assigned to each MWD team as an escort during the inspection. The NCO's function is to ensure the commander's intended target areas are searched. The NCO will provide a safe environment by making sure rooms are vacant and soldiers stay clear of the MWD teams, and to provide legal integrity for the unit and MWD teams.

c. Rooms should be opened/unlocked prior to the arrival of the team. Only rooms belonging to the requesting commander may be inspected. In the case of soldiers of separate commands sharing the same living space, each commander should be present at the briefing mentioned above, and must concur in the inspection. Other units that reside in the barracks must arrange their own separate inspections.

d. The unit commander and the first sergeant should not be involved in the areas being inspected. Being involved in the inspection could present a conflict of interest and may prevent the administration of punitive actions.

e. MPI may be called if the K-9 handler suspects gang or extremist indicators are present.

f. Drug Suppression Team (DST) may be called if the dog responds to a past or present odor, for a thorough search of the area.

4. You may direct a soldier to undergo a urinalysis if the K-9 responds to a past or present odor. Inform the Kennelmaster at 396-9015/7187 of the results of the test. This information will be maintained as part of the dog's performance record and will not identify the individual undergoing the urinalysis. These results are required per AR 190-12 for the completion of the dog's records.

5. The commander's briefing/demonstration of the MWD is valid only during their tenure as the unit commander. In order to be kept informed of the dog's reliability, commanders must be updated on the dog's performance each time a request for a Health and Welfare Inspection is requested. A sample memorandum is provided in Appendix F. You may be required to see a demonstration again if a different MWD conducts subsequent inspections.

6. To schedule your next Health and Welfare Inspection, call the Kennelmaster at 396-9015/7187. Remember you can include your soldiers' POVs in the inspection. The larger the unit, the more advance notice is needed for scheduling. Have the following information on hand:

- a. Location – building number and cross streets.
- b. Number of rooms and POVs (This will determine how many K-9 are needed).
- c. Other areas to be inspected, e.g., luggage for deploying soldiers, etc.